



FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND/2

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SUPERGIRL

ACTION COMICS

1993

4

THE ALL-NEW
METROPOLIS MARVEL!



BY
ROGER STERN,
JACKSON GUICE
AND
DENIS RODIER

SUPERMAN

-- DEAD

METROPOLIS MARVEL KILLED IN ACTION

By LOIS LANE

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY PLANET

Superman, our world's greatest hero, was declared dead late this afternoon. He died of injuries sustained in the defense of the city and her people. His

FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST JOINING US... MUCH OF METROPOLIS REMAINS UNDER A DUSK-TO-DAWN CURFEW FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN.

THE WORLD-RENOWNED HERO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE TO STOP A BERSERKER MONSTER CALLED DOOMSDAY WHO THREATENED TO LEVEL THE CITY...

■ 'DOOMSDAY' KILLER ALSO SLAIN
PAGE A2

■ JUSTICE LEAGUE IN MOURNING
PAGE A2

■ MAYOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY
PAGE A3



--FOLLOWING A SEVERAL-STATE RAMPAGE WHICH RESULTED IN OVER 500 DEATHS AND LEFT JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICS IN DISARRAY, SUPERMAN JOINED THE BATTLE AT MIDDAY, BUT THOUGH HE FOUGHT VALIANTLY--



JAMES OLSEN/DAILY PLANET



WLEX EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE

--HE SEEMED UNABLE TO STOP DOOMSDAY'S ODYSSEY OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. IT WAS, TRAGICALLY, A FIGHT TO THE FINISH...

...WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF BOTH COMBATANTS. AND THOUGH MANY MADE HEROIC EFFORTS, THEY WERE UNABLE TO REVIVE THE MAN OF STEEL. HE WAS FINALLY TAKEN TO METRO GENERAL HOSPITAL WHERE...

IT IS MY SAD DUTY TO INFORM YOU THAT SUPERMAN WAS DECLARED DEAD AT APPROXIMATELY 6:23 PM.

MR. JORGE SANCHEZ

WALLACE, SUPERMAN'S BODY WAS BROUGHT HERE TO THE CITY MORGUE JUST MINUTES AGO.

SCOTT HARRIS
WLEX NEWS

AS SUPERMAN HAS NO KNOWN RELATIVES, THERE IS APPARENTLY SOME CONTROVERSY BREWING OVER WHO HAS RIGHTS TO THE SQUAWK!

SCOTT... CAN YOU HEAR ME?

WELL, WE SEEM TO BE EXPERIENCING--

"--SOME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES!"

WESTFIELD, I ADVISE YOU AN' YER PACK O' 'GHOULS' TO TURN 'ROUND AN' BOOGEYED OUTTA HERE!

I'D LISTEN TO INSPECTOR TURPIN, IF I WERE YOU.

REACTIONS

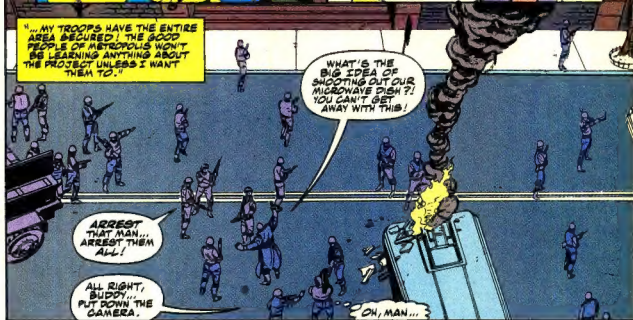
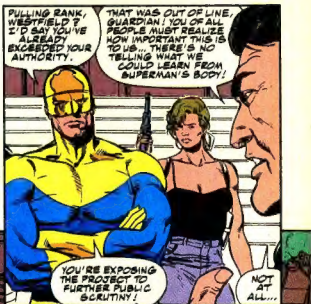
YOU AND YOUR SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT DON'T IMPRESS ME, CAPTAIN SAWYER. I DIRECT A FEDERAL PROJECT--

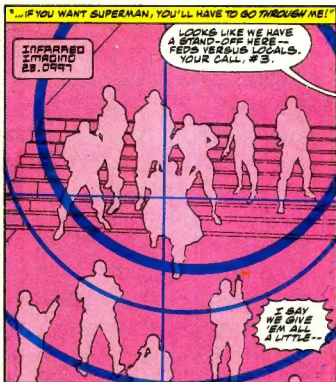
--AND UNDER THE SECTION 12 OF THE EXECUTIVE EMERGENCY ACT, I AM AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT FOR STUDY THE BODIES OF ANY ALIEN DECEDENTS... WHICH INCLUDES SUPERMAN AND THAT MONSTER!

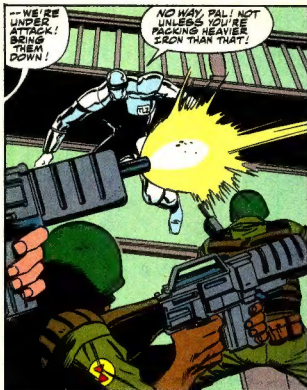
YEAH, SO YOU AND YOUR "BOYS" BETTER STEP ASIDE... OR THINGS COULD GET R-E-A-L MESSY!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
JACKSON & DENIS - ARTISTS
GUICE & RODIER - LETTERERS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
JENNIFER FRANK - ASSISTANT
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM GRUMMETT & DOUG HAZLEWOOD
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER







--WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! BRING THEM DOWN!

NO WAY, PAL! NOT UNLESS YOU'RE PACKING HEAVIER IRON THAN THAT!



NUTS! THAT'S OUR FIGHT THEY'RE FIGHTIN'!

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, DAN, I DON'T REALLY MIND!

KEEP YOUR FORCES DOWN, CAPTAIN. TEAM LUTHOR SEEMS MAINLY TO BE DRAWING FIRE. THEY MUST HAVE SOMETHING UP THEIR SLEEVES...

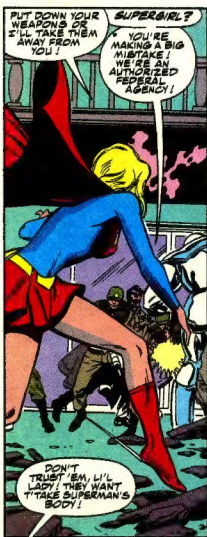


"...AND I THINK I SEE WHAT IT IS!"

UH, SARGE...?

KEEP FIRING, MCINTYRE! DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING!

ANYTHING? WHAT ABOUT HER?



PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS OR I'LL TAKE THEM AWAY FROM YOU!

SUPERGIRL?

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE! WE'RE AN AUTHORIZED FEDERAL AGENCY!

DON'T TRUST 'EM, LI'L LADY! THEY WANT T' TAKE SUPERMAN'S BODY!



THEY WHAT?!

SH TOOM



--RESCINDING YOUR AUTHORITY
IN THIS MATTER! SUPERMAN'S
HERITAGE MAY BE ALIEN, BUT
AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED
--AND THE PRESIDENT AGREES
--HE'S AN AMERICAN!

AND, BY GOD,
WE INTEND TO SEE
THAT HE'S GIVEN
A DECENT
BURIAL... IN
METROPOLIS!

I... I...

I'D SAY YOU PUT YOUR
FOOT IN IT, MATE. OH,
AND DON'T TRY TO SO
CLAIMING THAT DOOM-
DAY BEASTIE. S.T.A.R.
LABS'LL DISPOSE
OF 'IM!

NOW, AS A
PATRIOTIC
CITIZEN, I'M
WILLING TO
OVERLOOK THE
DAMAGE TO MY
PROPERTY--

--AND TO KEEP
MENTION O' YOUR LITTLE
PROJECT OUT OF THE
NEWS... IF YOU GET IN
YOUR TRUCKS AND RETURN
TO YOUR BASE... NOW!

"TEAM LUTHOR WILL HELP THE
GUARDIAN 'ESCORT' YOU TO
THE COUNTY LINE!"

I KNOW THAT WESTFIELD HAD IT IN FOR
SUPERMAN, * BUT I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D
STOOP SO LOW AS TO PICK A FIGHT
OVER THE MAN'S BODY!

THERE'D BETTER
BE SOME CHANGES
MADE AT THE CADMUS
PROJECT AFTER
THIS!

THAT'S THE SORT OF
LUNATIC STUNT I'D
HAVE EXPECTED FROM
DABNEY DONOVAN!

I'M TOLD THAT
OUR REMOTE
CREW HAS
CORRECTED THEIR
TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. SCOTT,
ARE YOU THERE?

* SINCE SUPERMAN #58

YES, WALLACE.
EVERYTHING IS...
UNDER CONTROL
NOW.

LEXCORP C.E.O.
LEX LUTHOR THE
SECOND HAS ARRIVED...
WITH SUPERGIRL. I
BELIEVE HE'S ABOUT
TO MAKE A
STATEMENT...

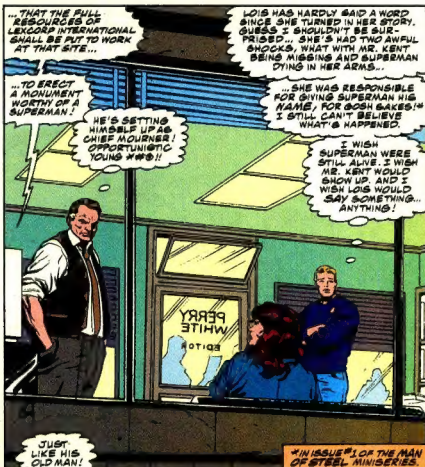
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN... THE...
DEATH OF SUPERMAN
... HAS AFFECTED US
ALL... DEEPLY. A
LEGEND HAS BEEN
TAKEN FROM US.

IT IS FITTING AND
PROPER THAT WE MOURN
HIS PASSING... ESPECIALLY THOSE OF US IN
METROPOLIS... WHO
KNEW HIM SO WELL...



...TO THAT
END, MAYOR
BERKOWITZ HAS
INFORMED
ME--

--THAT
A SECTION OF
CENTENNIAL PARK
WILL BE SET ASIDE
AS A FINAL RESTING
PLACE FOR OUR
FALLEN CHAMPION.
AND I PLEDGE TO
YOU NOW...



...THAT THE FULL
RESOURCES OF
LEXCORP INTERNATIONAL
SHALL BE PUT TO WORK
AT THAT SITE...

...TO ERECT
A MONUMENT
WORTHY OF A
SUPERMAN!

HE'S SETTING
HIMSELF UP AS
CHIEF MOURNER!
OPPORTUNISTIC
YOUNG MAN!!

LOIS HAS HARDLY SAID A WORD
SINCE SHE TURNED IN HER STORY.
GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SUR-
PRISED... SHE'S HAD TWO AWFUL
SHOCKS. WHAT WITH MR. KENT
BEING MISSING AND SUPERMAN
DYING IN HER ARMS...

...SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR GIVING SUPERMAN HIS
NAME, FOR GOSH GAKES!!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
WHAT'S HAPPENED.

I WISH
SUPERMAN WERE
STILL ALIVE. I WISH
MR. KENT WOULD
SHOW UP. AND I
WISH LOIS WOULD
SAY SOMETHING...
ANYTHING!

JUST
LIKE HIS
OLD MAN!

"IN ISSUE" 1 OF THE MAN
OF STEEL MINISERIES



IT'S BEEN
A LONG, HARD
DAY -- WHY
DON'T YOU KIDS
GO HOME?

HOME. SURE.



NEED
A LIFT,
LOIS?

THANKS,
JIMMY... BUT,
NO, I'M...
WELL, I'M NOT
ALL RIGHT--

--BUT I
CAN FIND
MY WAY.



MS. LANE? L-LOIS?
HAS THERE BEEN
ANY WORD FROM MR.
KENT?

F-FROM
CLARK?!
CLARK IS...
IS--!

OH,
GOD!

N-NO
ALLIE.
NO
WORD.



WELL, DON'T GIVE UP
HOPE! THERE ARE
THOUSANDS OF FOLK
STILL MISSING --
AND THE PHONES ARE
SUCH A MESS!

MR. KENT
WILL TURN UP--
I JUST KNOW
HE WILL!

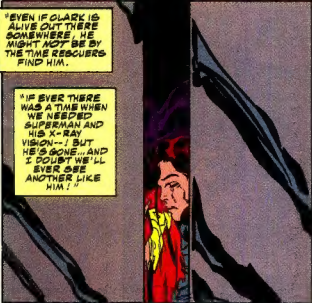
SURE,
G'NIGHT,
ALLIE.



I HOPE ALLIE'S RIGHT.

AMEN TO THAT, OLSEN BUT... YOU WERE THERE... SCORES OF BUILDINGS WERE TOPPLED DURING DOOMSDAY'S ATTACK.

MOST OF THE PEOPLE STILL MISSING ARE PROBABLY TRAPPED IN THE WRECKAGE.



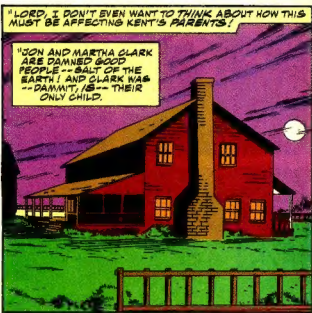
"EVEN IF CLARK IS ALIVE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, HE MIGHT NOT BE BY THE TIME THE RESCUERS FIND HIM.

"IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE NEEDED SUPERMAN AND HIS X-RAY VISION-- I BUT HE'S GONE... AND I DOUBT WE'LL EVER SEE ANOTHER LIKE HIM."



"IT'S SO UNFAIR, CHIEF. MS. LANE AND MR. KENT HAD BEEN ENGAGED JUST A FEW MONTHS!"

"I KNOW, JIM. AND SHE'S TAKING IT PRETTY HARD. I'VE KNOWN THAT WOMAN SINCE SHE WAS A GIRL... AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HER SO ABSOLUTELY SHATTERED!"

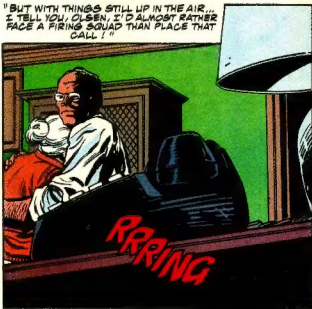


"LORD, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT HOW THIS MUST BE AFFECTING KENT'S PARENTS!"

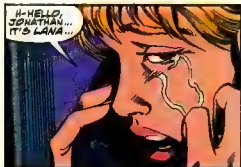
"JOHN AND MARTHA CLARK ARE DAMNED GOOD PEOPLE-- BALT OF THE EARTH! AND CLARK WAS -- DAMMIT, /S-- THEIR ONLY CHILD."



"I SHOULD HAVE CALLED THEM EARLIER, BUT I KEPT WAITING, HOPING THERE'D BE SOME GOOD NEWS TO GIVE THEM."



"BUT WITH THINGS STILL UP IN THE AIR... I TELL YOU, OLSEN, I'D ALMOST RATHER FACE A FIRING SQUAD THAN PLACE THAT CALL!"



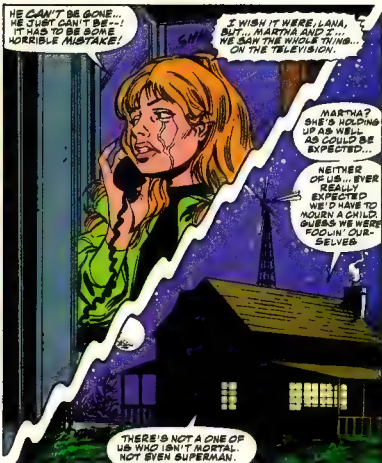
H-HELLO, JONATHAN... IT'S LANA...



...P-PETE AND I WERE ON THE ROAD... WHEN THE NEWS CAME OVER THE RADIO.

OH, JONATHAN... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

HE CAN'T BE GONE... HE JUST CAN'T BE...! IT HAD TO BE SOME HORRIBLE MISTAKE!



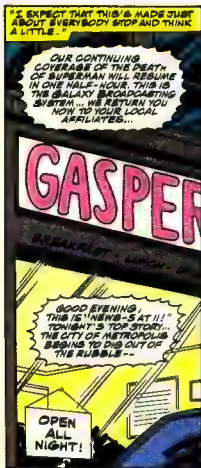
I WISH IT WERE, LANA, BUT... MARTHA AND I... WE SAW THE WHOLE THING... ON THE TELEVISION.

MARTHA? SHE'S HOLDING UP AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED...

NEITHER OF US... EVER REALLY EXPECTED WE'D HAVE TO MOURN A CHILD. GUESS WE WERE FOOLIN' OURSELVES.

THERE'S NOT A ONE OF US WHO ISN'T MORTAL. NOT EVEN SUPERMAN.

"I EXPECT THAT THIS'S MADE JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY STOP AND THINK A LITTLE."



OUR CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN WILL RESUME IN ONE HALF-HOUR. THIS IS THE GALAXY BROADCASTING SYSTEM... WE RETURN YOU NOW TO YOUR LOCAL AFFILIATES...

GASPER
BREAKFAST CEREAL

GOOD EVENING, THIS IS "NEWS-5 AT 11" TO NIGHT'S TOP STORY... THE CITY OF METROPOLIS BEGINS TO DIG OUT OF THE RUBBLE--

OPEN ALL NIGHT!



--AS THE WORLD MOURNS THE PASSING OF A GREAT MAN!

LORDY, DIDN'T ANYTHING ELSE HAPPEN IN THE WORLD TODAY?

IF IT DID, CLOVIS, IT DOESN'T MATTER.



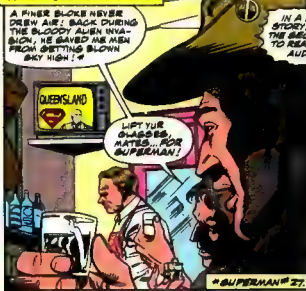
YEAH... RECKON YER RIGHT, SHERIFF

'COURSE HE IS! 'TWEREN'T FOR SUPER-MAN-- AN' THAT BAT-MAN FELLA-- THIS TOWN WOULD'VE BEEN OVERRUN BY VAMPIRES!

A LOTTA FOLKS'RE BEHOLDEN TO THAT MAN, DAISY...

IN ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #1.

"... THE WHOLE WORLD OVER! "

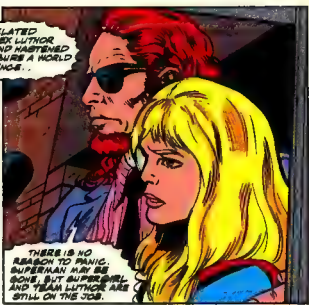


A FINER BLOKE NEVER
DREW AIR: BACK DURING
THE BLOODY ALIEN INVA-
SION, HE SAVED HIS MEN
FROM GETTING BLOWN
SKY HIGH! *

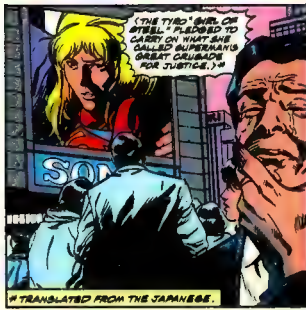
LIFT YUR
GLASSES,
MATES... FOR
SUPERMAN!

IN A RELATED
STORY, LEX LUTHOR
THE SECOND HASTENED
TO REASSURE A WORLD
AUDIENCE...

* SUPERMAN # 27.



THERE IS NO
REASON TO PANIC.
SUPERMAN MAY BE
GONE, BUT SUPERMILL
AND LUTHOR ARE
STILL ON THE JOB.



(THE TYRO 'SHEL OF
STREL' PLEDGED TO
CARRY ON WHAT SHE
CALLED SUPERMAN'S
GREAT CRUISE
FOR JUSTICE.) *

* TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE.



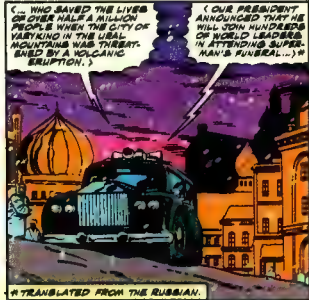
(JUST NOW THIS UNVEILED
YOUNG WOMAN CAN BE
EXPECTED TO CARRY ON IN
SUPERMAN'S STEAD.
REMAINING UNEXPLAINED,
SUPERMAN, IT WILL BE
REMEMBERED...) *

* TRANSLATED FROM THE ARABIC



(... PERSONALLY FLEW TONS
OF GRAIN AND MEDICAL
SUPPLIES TO REMOTE AREAS
DURING LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT.
MANY OF OUR PEOPLE ARE
ALIVE TODAY, THANKS TO
SUPERMAN...) *

* TRANSLATED FROM THE AMHARIC.



(... WHO SAVED THE LIVES
OF OVER HALF A MILLION
PEOPLE WHEN THE CITY OF
VARYING IN THE URBAL
MOUNTAINS WAS THREAT-
ENED BY A VOLCANIC
ERUPTION.)

(OUR PRESIDENT
ANNOUNCED THAT HE
WILL JOIN HUNDREDS
OF WORLD LEADERS
IN ATTENDING SUPER-
MAN'S FUNERAL...) *

* TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN.

"...IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS..."

YOU SIGNED THE DEATH NOTICE, DR. SANCHEZ?

YES, MR. LUTHOR. DUE TO THE BODY'S INVULNERABILITY, AN AUTOPSY WAS IMPOSSIBLE. AND AS I HAD EXAMINED SUPER-MAN DURING HIS LIFE...

WE GOT THE PICTURE, DOC. MAN...

...I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE "BIG GUY" IN HERE. STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S GONE. THERE'S LL NEVER BE ANOTHER LIKE HIM.

NO.

THE MURDERER... DOOMSDAY... IS HIS BODY--?

OVER ON THE MAIN EXAMINATION TABLE

SO... THIS IS THE BEAST THAT KILLED A HERO

IT ISN'T RIGHT.
JUST NOT RIGHT!



NOT RIGHT AT ALL!!



MISERABLE STINKING--!

TAKE IT EASY, LUTHOR! SMASHIN' FURNITURE OVER "HIS LADY" WON'T DO ANY GOOD. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW. NON YA FEEL, BUT--!

NO, YOU DO NOT KNOW!



SUPERMAN WAS MINE TO KILL! MINE!

I'VE BEEN CHEATED OF MY VENGEANCE...

"... A MONSTER HAS
ROBBED ME OF THAT
WHICH I DESIRED
MORE THAN ANYTHING!"

I-I CAN'T
BELIEVE I'VE LOST
HIM. JUST THIS
MORNING, CLARK AND
I WERE HAVING
BREAKFAST... JUST
LAST NIGHT...

MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
COME BACK TO
HIS APARTMENT...

CLINTON

34

... BUT ALL I
HAVE OF CLARK'S
... ALL THAT'S
LEFT ME ... IS IN
HERE.

THE
PLACE
IS SO
TIDY...

... ALWAYS WAS. I REMEM-
BER THE FIRST TIME I EVER
CAME HERE... WE WERE
JUST CO-WORKERS
THEN...

... I DIDN'T THINK
OF CLARK AS MUCH
MORE THAN MY
BIGGEST COMPETITION
FOR THE CHOICE
ASSIGNMENTS.

OH, JONATHAN...
MARTHA... THEY MUST
KNOW... THE WHOLE WORLD
KNOWS BY NOW.

BY TOMORROW
FRIENDS WILL BE
REASSURING
THEM THAT
CLARK WILL TURN
UP ALL RIGHT!

... THAT CLARK
WAS
SUPERMAN.

I CAN'T LET
THAT GET OUT.
HE HAD SO MANY
ENEMIES... SOME
OF THEM WOULDN'T
THINK TWICE ABOUT
TAKING THEIR REVENGE
ON HIS FAMILY.

I WAS
ALMOST
PART OF THAT
FAMILY.

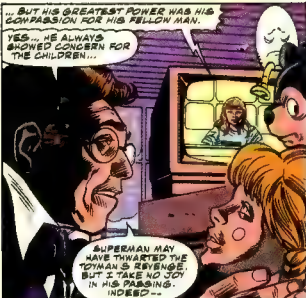
I-I JUST ABOUT
KILLED ME WHEN
ALLIE SAID THAT. I
ALMOST SLIPPED...
ALMOST TOLD HER...

I-I MUST
CALL THEM...

THEY
LOVED
CLARK
SO
MUCH...

WE ALL...
LOVED
HIM... SO
VERY, VERY
MUCH!

"HE INSPIRED GREAT PASSION
IN MANY PEOPLE..."



... BUT HIS GREATEST POWER WAS HIS COMPASSION FOR HIS FELLOW MAN.

YES... HE ALWAYS SHOWED CONCERN FOR THE CHILDREN...

SUPERMAN MAY HAVE THWARTED THE TOYMAN'S REVENGE, BUT I TAKE NO JOY IN HIS PASSING. INDEED--



"--WHO COULD?"

TURN THAT ~~SHAME~~ RADIO OFF!

IF I HEAR ONCE MORE ABOUT THE "TRAGEDY OF SUPERMAN'S DEATH," I'M GONNA PUKE!

I'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO LEECH OFF HIS POWER-- NOW, THAT'S A TRAGEDY!

SHUT UP, PARASITE!

HEY--



"--YOU SHUT UP! PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY! I'VE HELPED A LOT OF 'EM ON THEIR WAY! SO SUPERMAN KICKED... SO WHAT? I BET THE BOYS OVER ON STRYKER'S ISLAND WOULD THROW A PARTY IF THEY KNEW!"

IT'S TRUE, I TELL YA!

CAN'T BE!

THEN WHY'D THE WARDEN CUT OFF TV PRIVILEGES?

YEAH. AN' ORDER AN' EARLY LOCK-DOWN?

SOMETHIN'S HAPPENED, THAT'S FOR SURE!

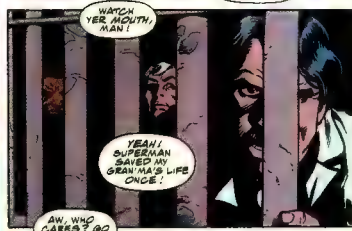


LOUIE'S GOT A RADIO STASHED! HEY, LOUIE--!

SHH! YEAH... IT'S TRUE... SUPERMAN BOUGHT THE FARM!

ALL RIGHT!

YEE-HAH! SUPER-SH!! S DAID!



WATCH YER MOUTH, MAN!

YEAH! SUPERMAN SAVED MY GRAN'MA'S LIFE ONCE!

AW, WHO CARES? GO TO SLEEP.



IF ONLY I COULD BE ON THE OUTSIDE NOW! WITH SUPERMAN GONE...



"...THERE'LL BE EASY PICKINGS
ALL OVER METROPOLIS!"

WHAT'RE THEY DOIN' IN
THERE? I DON'T CARE
IF SUPERMAN IS DEAD.
THIS IS NO TIME TO PAWLE.
WHY CAN'T I EVER PICK
SMART GUYS TO WORK
WITH?

WHY COULDN'T I
HAVE BEEN BORN SMART?
THEN MAYBE I COULDA
GOTTEN INTO WHITE-
COLLAR CRIME... YEAH,
THAT'S WHERE THE
REAL DOUGH IS!

OH, MAMA!
I BELIEVE
WE'VE HIT THE
MOTHERLODE!
DID IT...



"...THERE'S A HUGE WAD
OF BILLS BACK UNDER
NEATH THESE SH CIGS.
TWENTIES, FIFTIES,
HUNDREDS!"

DANNY, THAT'S
PETTY CASH
COMPARED TO
WHAT WE GOT
HERE! C'MON--
LET'S GO!



WHAT'S
THIS?!

'S ABOUT
TIME! WHAT
TOOK YA SO
LONG?!

ASK
DANNY-
BOY!

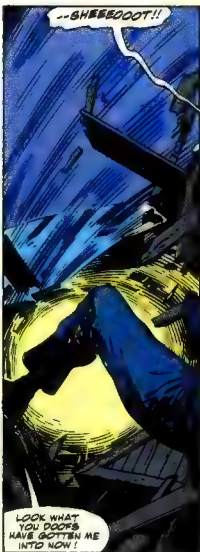
HEY, I
WAS JUST
PICKIN' UP
A LITTLE
TIP, THAT'S
ALL!



YOU THERE--THIS
IS THE POLICE!
GET OUT OF THAT
CAR AND PUT YOUR
HANDS ON TOP OF
YOUR HEADS!

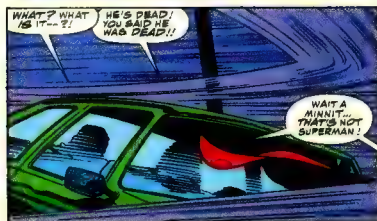
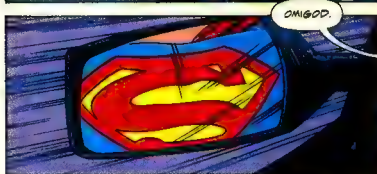
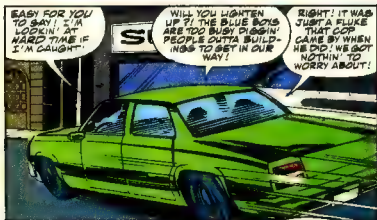
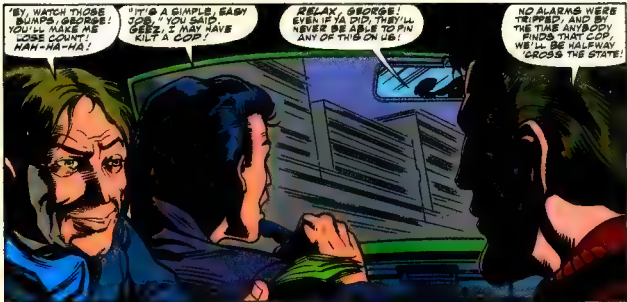
I SAID
OUT OF THE
CAR!

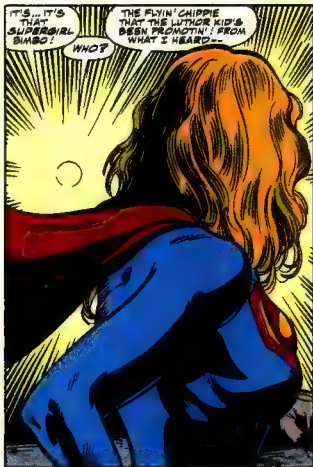
I MEAN
IT! STOP!!
STOP OR
I'LL--

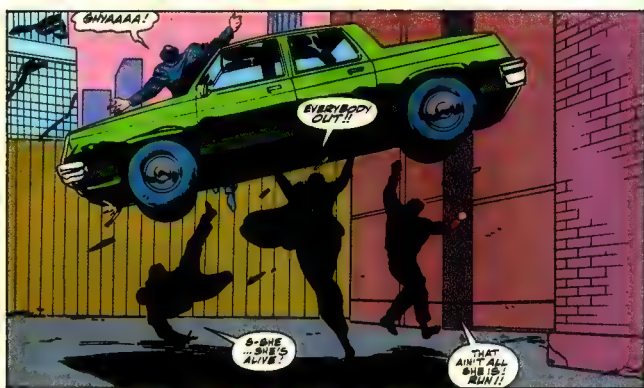


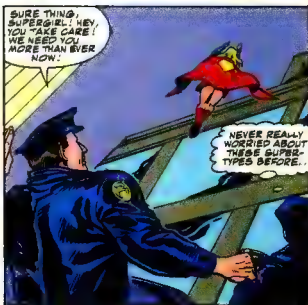
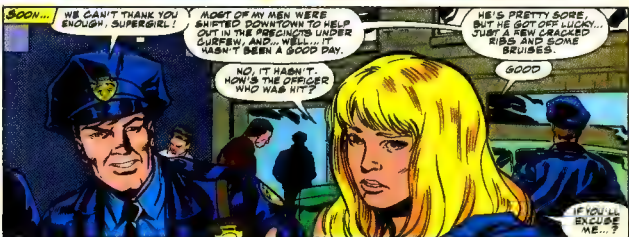
--SHEEBOOOT!!

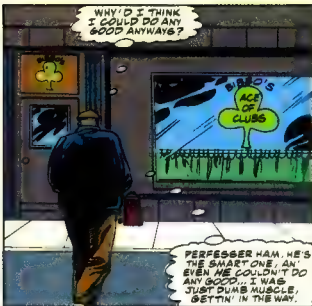
LOOK WHAT
YOU DOOFS
HAVE GOTTEN ME
INTO NOW!













WHATEVER
YOU SAY,
BIBBO, YOU'RE
THE BOSS.

CHEE, I AIN'T
NEVER KNOWN
BIBBO TO TURN
DOWN A DRINK...



"... NEVER SEEN HIM
LIKE THIS BEFORE! "

GOD? 'S ME...
BIBBO... BEEN AWHILE
SINCE WE TALKED. I
KNOW MY PAL SUPER-
MAN IS WITH YA
NOW...

... SO I GUESS
HE DON'T REALLY
NEED MY PRAYERS...
BUT THE REST O'
US SURE DO.



HAIL MARY,
FULLA GRACE,
THE LORD IS
WITH YOU...

... BLESSED ART THOU
AMONGST WOMEN AN'
BLESSED IS THE FRUIT
O' THY WOMB... JESUS.

HOLY MARY,
MOTHER O' GOD,
PRAY FER US
SINNERS NOW
AN' AT THE HOUR
OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN.

TAKE GOOD CARE
O' SUPERMAN...
OKAY, GOD? I MISS
'IM... I 'SPECT JUST
ABOUT EVER' BODY
MISSES 'IM.



GOD? I
GOTTA ASK
YA... WHY?

WHY SHOULD
SUPERMAN DIE...
WHEN A WASHED-
UP O' ROUGHNECK
LIKE ME GOES
ON LIVIN'?



IT AIN'T
RIGHT,
GOD...

... IT
JUST
AIN'T
RIGHT.

END



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Dear Roger, Jackson and Denis:

Thank you for ACTION COMICS #681! I've been a Rampage fan since her introduction in SUPERMAN #7 and look forward to each of her appearances. You wonderful guys have at last come up with the definitive Rampage: not a mindless monster or a manipulated pawn, but the biggest, strongest and meanest heroine in the DC Universe! Plus, unlike Lobo or Guy Gardner, the lady has brains! Hey, guys! How about a Rampage/Hellgrammite rematch? Just the two of them one on one the next time!

Also, that was an intriguing thought of Kitty's on page 22, of joining the Justice League and being Rampage full-time. I would rather see her and her larger half in a special or miniseries than see Kitty lost in a large group. I feel she is best operating alone against an adversary or adversaries.

Robert John Williams
Long Beach, CA

How about topping off your enjoyment of this issue with a Baldy—straight from the biggest, strongest and meanest businessman in the DC Universe: Mike-Catlin Lex Luthor III!

Dear Editor:

This is my first letter to a comic book. I'm over twenty-one, and until three and a half years ago, I had never read a single super-hero comic. Yes, believe it or not, it's true. My first comic was SUPERMAN #22; what an issue to start with! Three Kryptonian villains had destroyed the Earth of the Pocket Universe, and Superman executed them! Needless to say, I had to run out and buy the SUPERMAN comics leading up to that issue so that I could find out just what the heck was going on.

From that point on I was hooked. I started buying every comic I could find that Superman was in. I now have many thousands of comics, most of them featuring Superman. Presently, I'm reading a lot of different titles but SUPERMAN is still my favorite.

To be honest, it wasn't that first comic that made me a SUPERMAN fan. It was after seeing Superman

and Superman II that I became a fan. I had seen Superman when it was first shown in the theatres but it wasn't until the summer of 1988—almost ten years later—that it actually hit me. I just didn't know what I was missing all those years!

I really love what you've done with the Man of Steel. Ever since his revitalization, the books have been better than they've ever been before. And now we even get a weekly dose of Superman. It's great! I was also pleased to learn that Superman is in the Justice League. It's been a long time since he's been anything other than a reserve member. Now he's appearing regularly in five different books. Way to go, Superman!

I'm very happy about Lois and Clark's engagement. It took over fifty years but it finally happened. You surprised me when you killed off Lex Luthor. I just hope that Lex Luthor II will make as formidable a foe as of Baldy was. I was glad that you brought back Matrix for the "Panic in the Sky" storyline. I miss the Supergirl of the old comics, and I hope that someday you will bring her back. Meanwhile, I guess I'll have to settle for Supergirl/Matrix. She/it is better than no Supergirl at all. I do like Matrix, though, so please have her appear in your books more often. I would also like to see more stories about Clark's life before he became Superman.

Keep up the good work; you've never let me down yet.

Lisa Briggs
Charlottesville, VA

Dear Roger, Mike and the Crew:

As a kid, I never really liked Supergirl. Now, as a dad, I'd love to see more of her! You see, my daughter Cassie (almost two) loves her! Whenever she sees Superman, her first reaction is "Where's Supergirl?" Let's see more Supergirl covers, too! Keep up the good work!

Ed & Cassie Catto
Ridgewood, NJ

Keep reading, Ed (and Cassie), you'll see a lot of Supergirl in the upcoming issues! We're sure all you Supergirl fans out there are enjoying this issue's cover!

Dear Roger, Jackson and Mike:

It's been a while since I lavished praise on ACTION COMICS. "Odds and Endings" was a very pleasing wrap-up to a good multiparter. After all the noise, we needed a comparative rest, and you gave us one. The tale was fairly simple, straightforward, and fun. The highlights were the little touches, such things as the rock in Clark's shoe and the argument between Perry and his editor. And the most amazing thing was how full of these touches it was. After a while, I looked at the page number and saw I had only read half the story, and yet I felt as though I had read a complete, satisfying story. You guys packed enough in there for two issues of most comics. Good work.

Then there's Rampage. She is rather interesting in her own way. A scientist who is attractive, a powerhouse heroine who prefers her job to her might, she is an interesting variation on several themes.

Hellgrammite is also intriguing. He shows sparks of a sadistic sense of humor, and unusual powers. He's not much of a challenge to someone as powerful as Superman, but he should pose an additional problem for the overworked people at S.T.A.R. Labs, and for Luthor. After all, he's still under contract.

Overall, and this includes the softer look Jackson brings to Rampage and her mohawk, another fine issue from the best of the SUPER-writers. You know, Roger, you almost amaze me. You're the only writer whose work on Spider-Man was memorable, and your work thus far on Alan Scott stories has almost (but not quite) convinced me that the JSA should not stay retired. But this book is your best. See you in twenty-eight.

Simon DelMonte
Queens, NY

Dear Mike and Jennifer:

One of my complaints about SUPERMAN comics last year was that they too often fell into a formula where Superman would battle a villain one week, then return to battle another the following, with little time to relax and show his supporting cast interacting leisurely.

In ACTION #681, this is precisely what was delivered. The cast was able to relax and return to everyday life after the Blaze/Satanus War. This was a most enjoyable aspect of #681. Roger Stern took ample time to update us on Metropolis and the cast. We saw subplots move forward as well as scenes of the cast simply relaxing as everyday people might. Jackson Guice's artwork highlighted these scenes. He has the ability to draw action scenes as well as scenes of people chatting with equal verve. Even when the Rampage battle took center stage, the mood was set to enjoy watching the Hellgrammite be captured. This setting of the mood was much appreciated.

I think #681 illustrates just why SUPERMAN titles are among the best super-hero comics out there. Readers may search new publishers for "hot" artists or titles, but the true hot work is right here where it all began.

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

SUPERMAN fans seem to be pretty evenly divided between those who think we need more action and those who like the titles "as is," Mark. But one thing's apparent: seems like everybody enjoyed this issue!

Dear Editor:

ACTION #681 was a nice, good old-fashioned slugfest after the philosophical bent that SUPERMAN tales have contained recently with the Blaze/Satanus War and Kismet. There's nothing like a thought-provoking story with some sort of moral conflict to keep us readers on our toes, but it's nice to have filler issues like this one in which Superman can really tear loose. Poor Hellgrammite didn't stand a chance between Supes and Rampage.

Yet at the same time, Roger Stern should be congratulated for getting some outstanding character development into this issue. Since we don't have Lois to deceive anymore, it seems Jimmy is going to be the character asking questions about Clark's whereabouts when Superman shows up. And using that rock in the shoe from the Lone Ranger is just the kind of extra detail that makes this line of comics so special. It's not even like this is unique, 'cause you guys seem to come up with something similar to this quite often. Plus the panel with Supergirl speculating about Clark and his ability to hide his secret identity was chilling. It can't be too long before she spills the beans to Luthor, and then all hell's gonna break loose for Superman.

But best of all was that bit on the roof of the Daily Planet between Lois and Clark! The relationship between these two characters seems almost too real. After scenes like this I wonder how it could possibly have taken Clark and Lois until SUPERMAN #50 to fall in love.

James Evans
Madison, WI

Dear Mike and Jennifer:

I think I've become a bit too jaded in my old age to be thrilled by a couple of super-strong beings beating up on each other and the building they're in, so this week I'm going to write about love.

Roger Stern presented us here with a text-book lesson on what makes a relationship work and thrive: honesty, strength, equality. The confidence and reliability that Clark and Lois have in each other have given their characters the maturity they each need to face the weirdness their lives throw at them: no longer is Lois torn by the uncertainties of her feelings regarding the original attentions of Lex or the doomed love of Jose Delgado, and Superman would never have needed to go on his soul-searching through the universe if he'd had Lois by his side then. Their security in each other allows their lives to move in their occasionally separate spheres and perform their roles in life superbly—witness her articles about S.T.A.R. Labs. I suspect that Lois is now considered much the better reporter than Clark!

But where these positive qualities have disappeared, we only have tragedy in the making. Supergirl resorts to lyrical clichés to define her love—she's in love with the idea of love, and a false image of a perfect mate, at that—but that is often the fate of many teenagers, I'm afraid. There's a very slow fuse burning away which is going to explode her life to smithereens—don't let it burn forever! We can only take the tension in this subplot so long, you know!

I'm actually most worried about Kitty Faulkner. When last we saw her a few months back, she had found a positive love on the last page of STARMAN #45—now, I know Will had been about as fickle as Wally West with the various women in his life in the last year or so of his title's run, and he is a little preoccupied with the darker side of his nature at the moment—but what has happened to this relationship? Kitty seemed to be suggesting in this issue that her life out west—all of it—had come to an end. And she's open to new relationships as well! This, I think, is a pity, because both she and Will had a fragile aspect to their character that the other was able to strengthen, in

much the same way that Clark and Lois find extra strength in their love for each other. Starman deserves another niche in the DC Universe after the Eclipso saga finishes—and, as he also has strong links with Superman, it might be nice to see him return to Kitty and make a new home in Metropolis: he could use his advertising skills to help promote S.T.A.R. Labs!

Well, it might make the city far too crowded with superbeings, (does Booster Gold still keep a residence there, by the way?), but I just like to see happy endings!

Jim Jackson
Kent, England

We think Booster packed his bags and left Metropolis before he even joined the JLA...and from the events depicted in ECLIPSO: THE DARKNESS WITHIN #2, we figure Starman won't be visiting Metropolis any time in the near future either.

—Jennifer Frank
On the Bandwagon of Love

NEXT WEEK: Superman's funeral. A massive crowd of friends and allies, citizens and super-heroes gather to pay their final respects to Superman in MAN OF STEEL #20, by Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: Superman's body has been stolen from its tomb, and Lois is rapidly losing control! Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding tell the tale in SUPERMAN #76.

IN THREE WEEKS: Lex is becoming paranoid about Superman's death—it is a little too similar to a trick he himself has pulled...especially with Superman's body missing. But the Special Crimes Unit is on the case—and if they can't find Superman's body, no one can! ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #499 is brought to you by Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood.

IN ONE MONTH: The Underworld is searched for Superman's body and the S.C.U.'s Terrible Turpin isn't leaving without answers—even if he has to beat them out of some of the Underworld's ugliest customers to do it! See it happen in ACTION COMICS #686, by Roger Stern, Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier.

Supergirl's got some work to do to live up to the legend of Superman... while Super-Teamster Jackson Guice takes his shot at living up to the legend of Joe Shuster's classic ACTION COMICS #1 cover.



Dark Beast Charming:

all too eager
to get his hands
DIRTY!

GREETINGS,
LONE TRAVELLER.
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO
OBLIGE YOU WITH
A SPLENDID CUP
OF COCOA...

...I'M AFRAID
YOU'LL HAVE TO
SETTLE FOR ONE
OF MY DEADLY
SCANS!